

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 2-15 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 6 and 12 are amended.

No new matter is presented by the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in original claim 13 and the original specification at page 29, lines 17-25.

Claim Objections

In the Final Office Action mailed December 7., 2009, at item 4, claims 2 and 6 were objected to for informalities therein.

Claims 2 and 6 were amended from the phrase "capable of" to the phrase --configured to-- in the Amendment filed February 8, 2010.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 6 are free from the objection.

Rejection of Claims 2-8, 10 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Final Office Action mailed December 7, 2009, at item 6, claims 2-8, 10 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ichinohe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,411, hereafter referred to as Ichinohe) in view of Yamaya et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0184387, hereafter referred to as Yamaya).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is directed to a routing control method, and recites:

... determining, by a second router, a routing capability time required to enable the routing function when the second router is configured to execute the routing function ...

... setting a time for switching, by the nodes receiving the routing stop message and the routing capability message, a destination of transmissions from the first router to the second router based on the routing capability time inside the routing capability message, wherein the routing capability time is determined in and transmitted from the second router,

(hereafter referred to as the routing capability time feature.) That is, the second router calculates a routing capability time required to enable the routing function. Moreover, nodes (in the local area network) set a time for switching a destination of transmissions from the first router to the second router based on the routing capability time: (1) that is inside the routing capability message; (2) that is determined in the second router; and (3) that is transmitted from the second router.

Ichinohe Reference

In the Final Office Action mailed December 7, 2009, at page 3 (and not disputed or amended in the Advisory Action mailed February 22, 2010), the Examiner acknowledges that Ichinohe does not disclose explicitly "transmitting, by the second router ... a routing capability message, notifying the routing capability time, to the nodes in the local area network..." Applicants respectfully agree with the Examiner's acknowledgment and further submit that Ichinohe is silent regarding the routing capability time feature as recited in claim 2.

Yamaya Reference

In the Advisory Action mailed February 22, 2010, at pages 2 and 3, the Examiner contends that Yamaya teaches:

'a routing capability time,' and transmission of a time in the advertisement message to other nodes on the local area network. Examiner interpreted 'a routing capability time' as counting of the master down timer of the router expires, see para. [0066], [0061], and interpreted 'transmission of a time in the advertisement message to the other nodes on the local area network' as transmits an advertisement packet to a router ..., and transmit[s] a transition notification packet ...', paras. [0116]-[0018] [sic], [0150], [0116].

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner regarding his contention. Yamaya at the portion cited by the Examiner (i.e., Paragraphs [0150] and [0116]), is silent regarding the routing capability time feature as recited in claim 2. These portions of Yamaya disclose that a router in the master state transmits advertisement packets every one second interval. The router in the backup state sets a master down timer (i.e., hardware in the router in the backup state) to count down 3 seconds. If the router in the backup state does not receive a advertisement message within the 3 second after the master timer is reset (after receiving an advertisement message), then the router in the backup state transitions to the router in the master state and transmits a transition notification packet to the router in the master state to shows the changed state (i.e., the router in the backup state has been changed to the master state). (See Yamaya at paragraphs [0116] and [0150].) Thus, Yamaya is silent regarding transmission of any time inside either the advertisement message or the transition notification packet. Instead, the master down timer and advertisement timer (hardware timers) begin counting after receiving a message, but the messages themselves does not include a time (i.e. a routing capability time).

Although, Applicants disagree with the rejection, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have further amended claim 2. Because Yamaya does not contemplate the transmission of a time in either the advertisement message or the transition notification packet, Yamada cannot disclose or suggest, for example, "setting a time for switching, by the nodes ..., a destination of transmissions from the first router to the second router based on the routing capability time inside the routing capability message, wherein the routing capability time is determined in and transmitted from the second router," (emphasis added).

Accordingly, claim 2 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claims 6 and 12

Claims 6 and 12, which include similar but not identical features to those of claim 2, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least similar reasons of those of claim 2.

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 and 13-15

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 and 13-15, which include all of the limitations of claim 2, 6 or 12, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Final Office Action mailed December 7, 2010, at item 7, claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya in further view of Flinck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,099,326, hereafter referred to as Flinck).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 11, which include all of the limitations of claim 6, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

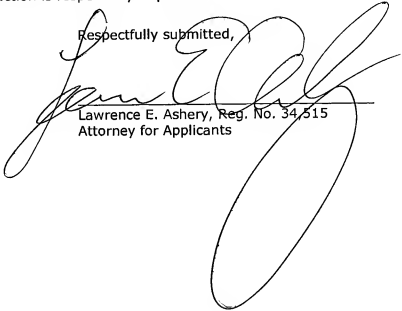
The addition of Flinck does not overcome the deficiencies of Ichinohe in view of Yamaya. This is because, Flinck, at the portion cited by the Examiner to teach that a router advertisement message of ICMPv6 has a routing stop time set in the lifetime field, merely discloses that a Router Lifetime should contain the frequency with which the mobile node receives information from Routing Area Updates, that no Reachable Time field should be set and that the Retrans timer contains the value that has been assigned for the Ready Timer Function inherent to GPRS Mobility Management. Flinck, however, is silent regarding "a routing capability time that is required to enable the routing function," as required by claim 6.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 11 are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya in further view of Flinck for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dmw/nm

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

682039